

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 213810

15

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 IO-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 SAB-01 AID-05 /111 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RONEILL:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

AF/P MRS. RUSSELL

----- 028950

R 091631Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 213810

AMEMBASSY SANA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 213810

E.O. 10652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
SEPTEMBER 8, 1975:

Q. THERE IS A REPORT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY QUOTING
ISRAELI OFFICIALS AS SAYING NEGOTIATIONS HAVE RESUMED WITH
THE UNITED STATES ON THE F-15S, LASER BOMBS, LANCE MISSILES
AND SO ON. CAN YOU ADDRESS THAT?

A. AS WE ALL KNOW, OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS WE HAVE
SAID THAT DECISIONS ON MAJOR NEW REQUESTS, PARTICULARLY
THOSE OF HIGH-TECHNOLOGY ITEMS, WERE BEING HELD UP. I
THINK I CAN CONFIRM TO YOU THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES
IS ACCURATE AND THAT THERE WILL BE DISCUSSIONS ON THESE
ITEMS.

Q. THIS WAS OVER THE WEEKEND.

A. WELL, IT WAS NOT ANNOUNCED, I THINK THE MIDDLETON
REPORT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES SAID "ACCORDING TO
ISRAELI SOURCES."

Q. IT SAYS, "NEGOTIATIONS HAVE RESUMED." HAVE THEY
ALREADY RESUMED; OR WILL THEY BE RESUMING?
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 213810

A. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS, AND
THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

Q. HAS THE TIME BEEN SET FOR ANY ISRAELI TECHNICAL TEAMS
TO COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT IT?

A. I KNOW OF NO SPECIFIC DATE, BUT LET ME CHECK
THAT AND SEE IF I CAN GET A SPECIFIC DATE.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE ANNOUNCING THE FORMAL
CONCLUSION OF THE SUPPOSED REASSESSMENT?

A. I THINK MAYBE WHAT WE OUGHT TO DO IS GO BACK TO LAST

MARCH WHEN THE EFFORT TO OBTAIN AN INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL DID NOT SUCCEED. AT THAT TIME WE ANNOUNCED THAT, IN VIEW OF THAT, WE OBVIOUSLY HAD TO TRY AND DETERMINE HOW THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS ACHIEVING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD BE ACHIEVED IN THE LIGHT OF THAT DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS BASICALLY WHAT THE ASSESSMENT -- OR REASSESSMENT IF YOU WILL -- AT THAT TIME WAS ALL ABOUT, WHETHER ONE SHOULD TRY AND PURSUE FURTHER STEP-BY-STEP APPROACHES OR SHOULD ONE GO TO GENEVA? IF ONE WENT TO GENEVA, WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST WAY OF GOING TO GENEVA AND STILL RETAINING THE MOMENTUM? ALL RIGHT, AS OF TODAY ANOTHER, I THINK, VERY SIGNIFICANT STEP HAS BEEN TAKEN WITH THIS LATEST INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. BUT, AS THE SECRETARY SAID UP ON THE HILL THIS MORNING -- I THINK SOME OF YOU OR MOST OF YOU HEARD IT HERE -- THIS IS ANOTHER STEP, IT IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED AS A FINAL SETTLEMENT AT ALL. AS I MENTIONED LAST THURSDAY, THE QUESTION OF THE AID PACKAGE TO THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE -- I CANNOT GIVE YOU AN EXACT DATE, BUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE -- WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS.

WITH REGARD SPECIFICALLY TO WHAT YOU SAID ON THE REASSESSMENT, IS IT COMPLETELY OVER? WE ARE DISCUSSING OUR MIDDLE EAST POLICY DAILY. IT IS BEING EXPLAINED DAILY IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY AND IN PRESS CONFERENCES.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 213810

THE AID PACKAGE HAS STILL NOT GONE UP. IT WILL BE GOING UP WHEN THE FINAL PAPERWORK IS DONE ON IT. SO TO TRY AND HAVE A MAGIC DATE ON WHEN THIS SO-CALLED REASSESSMENT

IS OVER OR NOT, I THINK IT IS A CONTINUING PROCESS THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE, FOR THE REASONS THAT I STATED.
Q. WHEN YOU STARTED OUT I THOUGHT YOUR ANSWER WAS GOING TO BE YES; NOW YOU SEEM TO HAVE CONCLUDED THE ANSWER IS NO.

A. A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE EXPECTING SOME SPECIFIC DATE WHEN IT WILL BE ALL OVER. THIS IS A CONTINUING PROCESS IN TRYING TO ARRIVE TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. YOU ARE SAYING THE REASSESSMENT WILL NEVER REALLY END?

A. WE WILL ALWAYS CONTINUE TO ASSESS WHERE WE CAN GO IN ORDER TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS PEACE HERE.

Q. FORGIVE ME, BUT THIS ALMOST IS NONSENSE. I ASSUME THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS ASSESSING AND REASSESSING ITS POLICY.

A. RIGHT.

Q. THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT ORDERED A REASSESSMENT AFTER THE MARCH COLLAPSE.

A. RIGHT.

Q. AT THAT TIME THEY EVEN PUT A DATE ON IT. I THINK KISS-INGER SAID SIX OR EIGHT WEEKS. AND THEN BECAUSE HE COULD NOT GET IT DONE IT CONTINUED ON. IT WAS SOMETHING TO BE DONE WITH A STATED END. HAS THE THING ENDED OR NOT?

A. THE AID PACKAGE IS PART OF THE REASSESSMENT. THAT HAS NOT GONE UP YET. IT WILL BE GOING UP SHORTLY.

Q. WELL, WOULDN'T THE AID PACKAGE BE THE END RESULT OF THE ASSESSMENT? SENDING IT UP THERE ISN'T PART OF THE ASSESSMENT ITSELF, IT'S A RESULT OF IT.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 213810

A. THEN THERE MAY BE THE QUESTION OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER WORDS, THIS INTERIM AGREEMENT IS NOT THE END OF THE PROCESS. IT IS GOING TO CONTINUE. NOW, I JUST DO NOT KNOW WHAT ELSE I CAN SAY ABOUT IT.

Q. THIS TAKES ON THE NATURE OF SORT OF A FLOATING CRAP GAME PERMANENTLY INSTEAD OF A CONCLUSIVE OPERATION. IS THAT TRUE?

A. ACCORDING TO THE DEFINITION THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN USING, I THINK WE CAN SAY, "ALL RIGHT, IF YOU WISH,

THE REASSESSMENT THE WAY YOU DEFINE IT IS OVER."
YOU CAN PUT IT THAT WAY. BUT WE ARE CONSTANTLY, AS YOU SAID, GOING TO BE ASSESSING HOW WE CAN CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD.

Q. THIS WAS A SPECIAL SITUATION. THIS WAS NOT IN THE ROUTINE ASSESSMENT OF POLICY.

A. RIGHT.

Q. YOU SEEM TO BE SAYING, FOR INSTANCE, WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS -- ARE YOU GOING TO HOLD ISRAEL TO ACCOUNT IN THIS REASSESSMENT FOR ITS ATTITUDE, FOR INSTANCE, ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS? CAN ISRAEL LOOK FORWARD TO SOME MORE THROTTLING?

A. NO. THE WAY WE HAVE APPROACHED THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ONE AND, HOPEFULLY, ADDITIONAL ONES, THE TWO PARTIES IN THE PAST HAVE ALWAYS REQUESTED US TO TRY AND HELP THEM ARRIVE AT AN AGREEMENT. THIS IS THE WAY WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO IT. THE PARTIES PRESUMABLY

WILL BE ASKING US TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO CONTINUE THIS
MOMENTUM. AND WE WILL TAKE THE SAME APPROACH IN TRYING
TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP.

Q. YOU SEEM TO HAVE LEFT US IN A THOROUGHLY FOGGY
CONDITION IN WHICH YOU SAY THAT IF WE WANT TO DECIDE FOR
OURSELVES THE REASSESSMENT IS OVER WE CAN DO IT, BUT YOU
ARE NOT QUITE WILLING TO SAY THOSE WORDS YOURSELF. BUT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 213810

SURELY THE WAY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ORIGINALLY
SAID IT WAS THAT WE WERE NOT GOING TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT
FURTHER ARMS AID UNTIL WE COMPLETED THE REASSESSMENT.
NOW WE'VE GONE AND HAD THEM SIGN THIS AGREEMENT IN GENEVA
ON THE BASIS THAT WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM FURTHER ARMS
AID, DOLS 2 BILLION WORTH OR WHATEVER AMOUNT IT IS, AND,
THEREFORE, BY THEIR ORIGINAL TERMS, NOT OURS THE JOURNAL-
ISTS, THE REASSESSMENT HAD TO BE OVER IN ORDER TO BE PRO-
MISING THEM MORE ARMS. NOW, WHETHER WE HAVE ACTUALLY
WORKED OUT THE DETAILS OF THE ARMS, WHICH IS WHAT YOU SAY
STILL NEEDS TO BE WORKED OUT, IS IRRELEVANT TO THAT ORI-
GINAL PREPOSITION, ISN'T IT?

A. THE QUESTION OF THE ARMS RELATION IS BEING
WORKED OUT. I DO THINK THAT WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT DURIN
THIS PERIOD SINCE MARCH THE PIPELINE REMAINED OPEN. THERE
WAS NO BAN OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR THE DELIVERY OF MILI-
TARY EQUIPMENT THAT HAD BEEN PAID FOR TO ISRAEL AT ALL.
THE PIPELINE DID REMAIN OPEN, AS WE HAVE SAID REPEATEDLY.

A. THAT'S INTERESTING, BUT IT'S ALSO IRRELEVANT. THE
POINT IS THAT WE SAID WE WOULDN'T COMMIT ANY MORE WEAPONS
UNTIL WE FINISHED THE REASSESSMENT. NOW WE HAVE LONG
SINCE COMMITTED MORE WEAPONS IN ORDER TO GET THEM TO
SIGN THE NEW AGREEMENT. SO THAT BY YOUR OWN ORIGINAL TERMS
HAS COME TO MEAN -- THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME ANYWAY, TO
HECK WITH IT.

Q. IS THE ISRAELI AID REQUEST GOING UP BEFORE THE SIGN-
ING OF THE TECHNICAL PROTOCOLS IN GENEVA?

A. I CANNOT GIVE YOU THE TIME WHEN THIS AID PACKAGE IS
GOING TO GO UP. IT WILL GO UP LATER THIS MONTH.

Q. THAT IS THE ESTIMATE?

A. THAT IS THE ESTIMATE, BUT NO SPECIFIC TIME HAS BEEN
PICKED YET.

Q. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL GO THROUGH THE
FINAL SIGNING BEFORE THE AID REQUEST IS FINALLY --
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 213810

A. I ASSUME THAT THAT IS POSSIBLE, YES. BUT, AS I SAY,
THERE IS NO SPECIFIC DATE THAT HAS BEEN PICKED JUST YET.

Q. THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. FAHMI, IS QUOTED
TODAY IN AN INTERVIEW AS SAYING PRELIMINARY TALKS ON THE
GOLAN HEIGHTS WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND THIS WAS PART OF
THE AGREEMENT THAT WAS WORKED OUT BY THE SECRETARY IN
THE PAST TWO WEEKS. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I CANNOT COMMENT ON IT INsofar AS TIMING IS CONCERNED.
THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY IS -- AND THE SECRETARY SAID THIS
DURING THE TRIP -- HE STANDS READY TO DO WHATEVER HE CAN
TO CONTINUE THIS MOMENTUM. PART OF THIS MOMENTUM COULD
BE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF ISRAEL
AND SYRIA. BUT I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANYTHING ON TIMING.

Q. MR. FAHMI IS QUOTED TOO AS SAYING THAT EGYPT WILL TRY
TO HAVE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE RECONVENED BEFORE THE END OF
THE YEAR.

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. I HAVE SEEN THE TICKER,
BUT I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON IT. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE213810
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:RONEILL:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750312-0770
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197509103/baaaaayw.tel
Line Count: 298
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971010
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US, PFOR, SOPN
To: ALGIERS
AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
DAMASCUS
JIDDA

KUWAIT
DHAHRAN
JERUSALEM
KHARTOUM
MANAMA
TEHRAN
TEL AVIV
TRIPOLI
RABAT
LONDON
PARIS
MOSCOW
ROME
USUN N Y
NATO
SANA
BAGHDAD
DOHA
ABU DHABI
CINCEUR
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006